

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 PC-01 AID-05 OPR-02 SCS-06

/108 W

-----079444 230139Z /62

R 221600Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9908

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 5192

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MILI CG

SUBJ: SHABA ATTACK: DEBRIEFING OF MR. WILLIAM STARKEY

1. SUMMARY: ON MAY 21 EMBOFFS DEBRIEFED MR. WILLIAM STARKEY, AN AMERICAN EMPLOYEE OF CIS, WHO WAS WOUNDED BY THE REBELS. EXCEPT FOR A BRIEF AUTOMOBILE TRIP THROUGH THE CITY ON MAY 18, WHICH LED TO THE SHOOTING INCIDENT IN WHICH HE WAS WOUNDED, STARKEY REMAINED

EITHER I HIS HOUSE OR IN THE GECAMINE'S HOSPITAL.
END SUMMARY.

2. WILLIAM STARKEY, AMERICAN EMPLOYEE OF CIS, HAD BEEN HOUSE-SITTING IN KOLWEZI CITY WHEN THE FIGHTING BROKE OUT SATURDAY, MAY 13. STARKEY REMAINED IN HIS HOUSE UNTIL THURSDAY MAY 18 WHEN HE LEFT THE HOUSE AFTER BEING ARRESTED BY A GROUP OF FIVE KATANGANS. AFTER

A SHORT AUTOMOBILE TRIP, THE KATANGANS ORDERED STARKEY OUT OF THE CAR AND THEN ORDERED HIM TO RUN AND SUBSEQUENTLY SHOT HIM IN THE RIGHT SIDE. STARKEY FELL, ROLLED INTO A DITCH AND
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REMAINED STILL. HE LATER WALKED TO GECAMINES HOSPITAL AND STAYED THERE UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF THE FRENCH AND BELGIAN TROOPS.

3. THE PRIMARY POINTS STARKEY BROUGHT OUT ABOUT THE OCCUPYING FORCES WERE: THEY WERE ALL BLACK, APPARENTLY ZAIRIANS, AND, FOR THE MOST PART, THEY SPOKE SWAHILI WITH A LITTLE FRENCH. HE NEVER SAW AMY WHITES, NOR DID HE HEAR ANY SPANISH-SOUNDING LANGUAGE.

THE OCCUPIERS THEMSELVES REFERRED TO EACH OTHER AS "COMRADE" AND AS KATANGANS. HE DID HEAR ON A FEW OCCASIONS THE WORD "ANGOLAIS" USED

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4. THE SOLDIERS HE SAW GENERALLY WORE FATIGUE-LIKE UNIFORMS OF OLIVE GREEN. THEY SPORTED AN ARM PATCH WITH THE WORD "TIGRE" AND A PICTURE OF A TIGER ON THEIR LEFT SLEEVE. HE DID NOT NOTICE ANY HELMETS WORN AND, IN SOME CASES, THE SOLDIERS WORE NEITHER BOOTS NOR SHOES. OVERALL, HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT THERE WAS NO UNIFORMITY IN DRESS AMONG THE OCCUPIERS.

5. HIS IMPRESSION OF THE ACTUAL COMBAT WAS THAT THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE FIGHTING TOOK PLACE ON SATURDAY, MAY 13 WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY A LENGTHY LULL WHICH DID NOT END UNTIL THE RE-ENTRY OF FAZ PARATROOPERS. MOST OF THE WEAPONS HE HEARD FIRED WERE OF A SMALL CALIBRE. HE DID NOTE SOME HEAVIER WEAPONS--PERHAPS A HEAVY CALIBRE MACHINE GUN, A RECOILESS RIFLE, AND SOME MORTAR ROUNDS. HE WAS ALSO IMPRESSED BY SOME VERY LARGE EXPLOSIONS OF A MAGNITUDE THAT LITERALLY SHOOK HIS HOUSE AND CAUSED PLASTER TO FALL FROM THE CEILING. HE HAD NO IDEA OF THE ORIGIN OF THE EXPLOSIONS.

6. THE NIGHTS WERE FAIRLY QUIET, AND HE DID NOT NOTE MUCH MOVEMENT ON THE STREETS DURING THE NIGHTS. HOWEVER, DURING THE DAY HE WAS AWARE OF SOLDIERS PASSING IN THE STREETS AND STOPPING AT AN OCCASIONAL HOUSE. HE ALSO NOTED CHILDREN AND WOMEN CARRYING

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WHAT WAS OBVIOUSLY LOOT FROM ABANDONED OR DAMAGED HOMES.

7. DURING HIS TREK BY FOOT (AFTER HAVING BEEN SHOT) TO THE HOSPITAL, HE DID NOT NOTE BODIES IN THE STREETS. HIS VISION, HOWEVER, WAS SOMEWHAT IMPAIRED DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE SOLDIERS WHO LOOTED HIS HOME ALSO STOLE HIS EYE-GLASSES.

8. STARKEY SAID THE KATANGANS WERE CARRYING BOTH SOVIET-TYPE AND AMERICAN WEAPONS, INCLUDING AN M-16. THE SOLDIER WHO SHOT HIM USED AN AK-47.

9. AFTER STARKEY ARRIVED AT THE GECAMINE'S HOSPITAL, HE DID NOT HAVE ANY FURTHER FIRST-HAND INTERCOURSE WITH THE KATANGANS. CUTLER

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